

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 OMB-01 /094 W

----- 046740

R 041501Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0514

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: DGB CONVENTION: CONCERN OVER PORTUGAL

REF: BONN 8307, 8325, 8397

1. SUMMARY. THE GERMAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (DGB), WHICH HAS CLOSELY FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL, HAS RECENTLY BECOME ALARMED OVER DECISIONS BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT TO IGNORE RESULTS OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS. PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS WERE ALSO CRITICIZED FOR PREVENTING MARIO SOARES FROM ADDRESSING A WORKERS' RALLY ON MAY DAY, AND PERHAPS THE FRG'S MOST INFLUENTIAL LABOR LEADER EUGEN LODERER, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN METALWORKERS UNION AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS FEDERATION, USED THE FORUM OF THE DGB CONVENTION IN HAMBURG TO SIGNAL THIS DGB CONCERN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GERMAN TRADE UNIONS HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN PORTUGAL FOR MANY YEARS AND WERE DELIGHTED WHEN THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT WAS OVERTHROWN. HOWEVER, RECENT TACTICS BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND BY THE COMMUNISTS WERE DENOUNCED BY LEADING SPEAKERS AT THE DGB CONVENTION AND ITS CONCOMITANT SPD RALLY. COMMENTS WERE MADE BY THE FOLLOWING SPOKESMEN:

SPD CHAIRMAN WILLY BRANDT: "I THINK THAT I CAN SPEAK FOR ALL SOCIAL DEMOCRATS GATHERED HERE WHEN I SAY THAT OUR SYMPATHIES ARE WITH THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ENDORSED DEMOCRACY AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF RULE BY FORCE. AND WE ARE ESPECIALLY ON THE SIDE OF THE SOCIALISTS IN PORTUGAL, WHO ARE UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE, ALTHOUGH THEY POLLED THE MOST VOTES IN FREE ELECTIONS. EUROPEAN CO-

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OPERATION WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED SHOULD IT TURN OUT THAT ONE DICTATORSHIP IS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER. NONE OF US IGNORES THE DIFFICULTIES WITH WHICH THE PORTUGUESE ARE CONFRONTED AND WE ARE NOT LACKING IN RESPECT FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES WHICH ENDED THE 50-YEAR TOTALITARIAN REGIME. HOWEVER, I SAY IN FRANKNESS, THE REPUTATION OF PORTUGAL IN THE WORLD WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY A MILITARY REGIME, GOVERNING AS A COMMUNIST COUNCIL

SYSTEM."

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DGB PRESIDENT VETTER ASSURED THE DELEGATES THAT PORTUGAL HAS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION OF THE DGB AND SAID THAT "THE PLEASURE THAT FREE ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS IS MIXED WITH FEARS OVER THE ATTITUDE OF THE COMMUNISTS, A MINORITY, WHO DISREGARDED THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY AFTER THE ELECTION."

IG METALL PRESIDENT LODERER DENOUNCED THE COMMUNISTS FOR PREVENTING SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER MARIO SOARES FROM ADDRESSING A WORKERS' RALLY ON MAY DAY SAYING THAT "THIS IS A MOCKERY OF DEMOCRACY" AND LED THE DGB TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

"THE 10TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE DGB WELCOMES THE END OF THE FASCIST REGIME IN PORTUGAL AND EXPRESSES ITS PLEASURE THAT FREE ELECTIONS WERE HELD IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS. THE ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CLEARLY INDICATED THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE'S DESIRE FOR DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM. THE DGB ESPECIALLY CONDEMNS ATTEMPTS BY POLITICAL MINORITIES TO IGNORE THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY. THE DGB CONVENTION EXPECTS THE RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL FORCES IN PORTUGAL TO RESPECT THE CLEAR DECISION OF THE VOTERS WHICH MUST NOT BE DOWNGRADED INTO A FARCE. IN PARTICULAR THE DGB CONVENTION EXPECTS TRADE UNION FREEDOM TO BE RESPECTED AND THAT THE WORKERS BE ALLOWED TO FREELY CHOOSE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. THE DGB WILL SUPPORT THE WORKERS IN PORTUGAL BY EVERY MEANS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND AFFIRMATION OF FREEDOM IN THEIR COUNTRY."

3. COMMENT. THE DGB INTENDS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE
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ICFTU IN IMPLEMENTING THIS RESOLUTION AND IN RELATIONS
WITH THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND TRADE UNIONS. UNLIKE
THE NORWEGIAN LO, THE DGB WILL NOT SEND THE RESOLUTION
TO EAST EUROPEAN EMBASSIES, SINCE DGB POLICY IS TO TRY
TO RESTRICT THE DIALOGUE WITH THE EAST EUROPEANS TO
TECHNICAL LABOR SUBJECTS.
CASH

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